

2.3 and 2.5 GHz radio spectrum auction set for December

Media Statement from Hon David Cunliffe, Minister for Communications and Information Technology

Thursday, 1 November 2007

The government has taken another key step towards the roll-out of wireless broadband access services to all New Zealanders, Communications and Information Technology Minister David Cunliffe announced today.

“Following decisions at the World Radio Assembly and careful consideration of public feedback, Cabinet has agreed to a final auction design for radio spectrum in the 2.3 GHz and 2.5 GHz bands,” said Mr Cunliffe.

“The auction design strikes the best a balance between providing plentiful spectrum for WiMAX and potential next generation cellular uses.

“Early deployment of broadband wireless is an important part of the Government’s Digital Strategy. Nationwide spectrum blocks will be subject to acquisition limits, association rules, and implementation requirements to ensure that true competition is facilitated”, said Mr Cunliffe.

Key features of the spectrum design include:

1. Four nationwide blocks, suitable for WiMAX operators which, in combination with the managed spectrum park, allows for a total of six or more service providers in an area.
2. Four further nationwide blocks, suitable for either advanced mobile cellular services (i.e. paired spectrum), or additional WiMAX type use (i.e. unpaired spectrum), depending on which is considered to be the higher value use through the auction process.
3. An acquisition limit per bidder of 40 MHz (including guardbands).
4. A managed spectrum park for regional and local users with a total of 45 MHz of spectrum (which allows for at least two or three local WiMAX providers).
5. Opportunities for Maori to participate in the knowledge economy through a nationwide spectrum block which will be held for a non-contestable allocation at a fixed price to a Māori representative group, as determined by the Minister of Māori Affairs.

“This auction is a high priority for the government. An auction date as soon as practicable will ensure greater certainty for interested parties planning networks, acquiring sites and scheduling investment in advanced broadband services for New Zealanders,” Mr Cunliffe said.

“The auction is expected to commence on Tuesday 11 December 2007.”

The Auction Catalogue, outlining the auction rules, lots, deed and conditions of sale will be available on the Ministry of Economic Development’s [radio spectrum website](#) on Friday 2 November 2007.



[Auction 9 - 2.3 and 2.5 GHz auction](#)